

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association December 2018 Vol. 85, No. 9

President's Message: On Thursday December 6, 2018, we had our Holiday Party at Carbone's Restaurant in Hopkinton, MA. We had a good showing, a room to ourselves, some great food and an enjoyable time with 23 people.

Our next regular meeting is January 3, 2019 when we plan to view one of David, K1HT's videos, "**Nine DXpeditions to DXCC Ten Most Wanted.**" I always enjoy watching these DXpedition videos and am amazed at the amount of work and preparation (and \$\$) needed to pull these events off. We also have our "**Show and Tell**", bring something interesting to talk about to that meeting! We got snowed out last January so surely you have something interesting to bring in from the last two years!

We are always looking for suggestions for topics, outside speakers and topics that you think would be good to hear at FARA, and of course home grown volunteers to speak at one of our meetings!

Odds and Ends: The older Circuits used to have a section where people could submit pictures, station news, license upgrades, antenna projects, new gear, rare DX, etc., for the newsletter. Please send them to me!

Shack Search sub-Committee: If you have ideas for finding a shack, or want to be on the new Shack Search Committee, please let me know. A few have signed up. We have not really formalized this yet but are open to ideas.

Rag Chew On Air Weekly Club Meeting? I have received some feedback that there is interest in an informal "roundtable" discussion "on the air" meeting, on a weekly basis. Wednesday pm around 7 or 8 pm has been suggested. One of these weeks, perhaps after the holidays, I will put out a notice on the email reflector. In the mean time, feel free to check in on the repeater any night around 7pm and see if we can stir up some activity. I believe that a healthy and active radio club starts with an active repeater.

Dues and Members List on W1FY Webpage: At the Board Meeting in August, we discussed posting an accurate list of paid up and lifetime members on the webpage starting this January, 2019. As you pay dues, you will be added to the webpage list. Please make allowances for the time needed to post. If there are any discrepancies, please contact me or Steve, N1MH.

FARA Members Email: Paid members and lifetime members should be receiving emails from members@w1fy.org. Let Steve or I know if you or anyone else is not getting the club emails. Non-members interested in receiving news about FARA can view the website or get on the separate news@W1fy.org by going to http://w1fy.org/subscribe-to-fara_news

Board Meeting: We met Saturday November 10, 2018, at Sumner's house to plan for the 2019 FARA Flea Market which is scheduled for Sunday April 7, 2019.

Silent Key: Richard "Dick" B. Marshall, November 11, 2018, at South Bay Hospital in Sun City Center, Florida. Dick was a graduate of the University of Hartford where he earned his Bachelors of Science Degree in Electronics. He was employed as an Electrical Engineer for the Raytheon Corporation for forty years. He also enjoyed his time as adjunct math faculty at MassBay Community College.



Marc, WA1R, writes: "It is with sadness that I report the passing of Dick Marshall, K1KTK. Dick was a longtime member of the club who participated in its many activities

including Field Day, where he was the official FARA chef, Sweepstakes, and other events, including the Flea Market where he ran the testing for many years. Dick and his wife Marsha for many years split their time following his and her retirement between Florida and Marlborough. At one time, Dick had quite a crop of Hams in the family, his daughters and son were all hams, as well as at least one of their sons-in-laws.”

Sumner, W1VIV, writes: “Dick was a former FARA Director and activist. He's the one who got us the Turkey Farm for many field days. He's the one who made great chili at every field day, along with eggs on Sunday morning. He was the one who talked me into becoming a VE. Always a key person in the club.”

Echolink: Andy, KC1DMM, and Morris, N1AVP have been looking into Echolink. We were able to do a test run using a linking radio, just to see if we can get it to work, and we were able to make contacts locally. We are interested to know what level of interest there is in restoring Echolink, before going to far with it? Any thoughts? I used to check into the Sunday night FARA net using Echolink when I was out of town.

Nostalgia: I reviewed the December 2008 Circuit. Greg Algieri, WA1JXR was coming to talk about antenna analyzers. Eric, KB1PJN and Roger, WA1NVC were working on the IRLP linking project. Both topics seem timeless and still of interest to the club.

FT8 and WSJT-X: December 10, 2018: New release of WSJT-X 2.0 is available online for free for working FT8 and other of the WSJT modes. This is a major upgrade and won't decode FT8 signals using the old software, nor vice versa. <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjitx.html>

“The current General Availability (GA) release is WSJT-X 2.0.0 The FT8 and MSK144 protocols have been enhanced in a way that is not backward compatible with older program versions. The new protocols become the world-wide standards starting on December 10, 2018, and all users should upgrade to WSJT-X 2.0 by January 1, 2019. After that date, only the new FT8 and MSK144 should be used on the air.”

ARRL New England Division Director Election Results. Lincoln, MA amateur Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, edged out incumbent Tom Frenaye, K1KI, by a count of 1,432 to 1,383. Hopengarten will take office at noon on January 1, 2019.

Upcoming Radio Events:

- 1/1/19 Straight Key Night is held every January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC. <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>
- 1/5/19: ARRL Kids Day. Kids Day always runs from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. Operate as much or as little as you like. <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>
- 1/12/19: North American QSO Party CW 1800Z, Jan 12 to 0559Z, Jan 13, 2019
- 1/19/19: North American QSO Party SSB 1800Z, Jan 19 to 0559Z, Jan 20, 2019
- 1/19/19: ARRL January VHF Contest 1900Z, Jan 19 to 0359Z, Jan 21, 2019
- 1/26/19: Winter Field Day 1900Z, Jan 26 to 1900Z, Jan 27, 2019
- 1/27/19: CQ 160 Meter CW Contest 2200Z, Jan 25 to 2200Z, Jan 27, 2019

FARA HORIZONS: UPCOMING EVENTS

January 3, 2019: January Meeting: Dxpedition video, "**Nine DXpeditions to DXCC Ten Most Wanted.**" Also Show and Tell. Bring something interesting from your Shack.

February 7, 2019: February Meeting. Tom Kinehan, N1CPE, US Army MARS Member / Leader, will talk about "**MARS, the Military Auxiliary Radio System.**"

March 7, 2019: Rob Macedo, KD1CY, Easter Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator, and ARES SKYWARN Coordinator for NWS Boston/Norton, will give us an **update on ARES.**

April 5, 2019: Meeting. No speaker yet.

April 7, 2019 Sunday, FARA Flea Market

May 3, 2019: Pizza party?

June 7, 2019: Elections and Field Day Preparations.

Club Information December 2018

Officers: see <http://w1fy.org/fara-officers>

- President: John Iwuc KB1VXY president@W1FY.org
- Vice president: Paul King N1VAM vp@W1FY.org
- Clerk/Secretary: Victor Anderson K1VEA secretary@W1FY.org
- Treasurer/Webmaster: Steve Moro N1MH treasurer@W1FY.org webmaster@W1FY.org
- Director Sumner Weisman W1VIV director@W1FY.org
- Director of Testing Jim Weckback W1EQW testing@fara.org

Meeting: Club meetings are normally held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in the Framingham Police Station.

Club Nets: FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, 147.75/147.15 - social/chat, emergency preparedness

Club Web Site: W1FY.org

Social Media:

- [facebook.com/faraw1fy](https://www.facebook.com/faraw1fy)
- twitter.com/fara_w1fy

Dues: Regular membership \$15, student / senior \$10. Repeater fee \$10 (optional)

You can join/renew/pay online at <http://w1fy.org/membership-form>

Mail Address: Framingham Amateur Radio Association, PO Box 3005, Framingham, MA